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BLAKELY SOKOLOFF TAYLOR & ZAFMAN 12400 WILSHIRE BOULEVARD, SEVENTH FLOOR			CHEN, VIVIAN	
	ES, CA 90025		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1773	
			DATE MAILED: 10/27/2003	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Application No. Applicant(s) MiCHAL ET AL		•		(X
Examiner			Application No.	Applicant(s)
Period for Reply A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address—Period for Reply A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION 108(a). In no event, however, may a reply be limity fitted sell still (SMONTHS from the mailing date of this communication. If the period for reply specified above is list she that the communication. If the period for reply specified above is list she that the communication. If the period for reply specified above is list she that the communication of the period for reply specified above is list she that the communication of the period for reply specified above is list she that the communication. If the period for reply specified above is list she that the communication. If the period for reply specified above is list she that the communication. If the period for reply specified above is list she that the communication. If the period for reply specified above is list she that the communication. A proper specified and the communication of the mailing date of this communication. A proper specified and specifie		·	10/005,251	MICHAL ET AL.
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			tion Summary	Part of Paper No. 6

Art Unit: 1773

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-14, 30-32 have been cancelled by Applicant.

Election/Restrictions.

2. Applicant's election with traverse of species 2 (claim 18) in Paper No. 5 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that the election requirement is too restrictive. This is not found persuasive because the examination of all specifically claimed species would constitute an undue burden.

The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

3. Claims 17, 19, 21-24 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a nonelected species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Applicant timely traversed the restriction (election) requirement in Paper No. 5.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

- 4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:
 - The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.
- 5. Claim 20 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Art Unit: 1773

Claim 20 recites the limitation "said crosslinkers". There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

- 6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:
 - (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.
- 7. Claims 15-16, 18, 20, 25-29, 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over UDIPI ET AL, in view of:
 - (a) RUPP (US 5,4,51,428); or
 - (b) KOLLURI ET AL (US 5,962,138).

UDIPI ET AL discloses a method of surface treating biomedical materials comprising providing a polymeric substrate such as polyethylene with a surface having acrylic acid functional groups, followed by adhering superoxide dismutase mimic (SODm) compounds having amine groups to the acrylic acid functional groups as recited in claims 15-16, 18, 26, 33. (pages 550, 553) However, the reference does not explicitly disclose the recited plasma polymerization method.

RUPP discloses that it is well known in the art to use plasma polymerization to produce carboxyl groups on polymer surfaces in order to provide good bonding with chemical or

Art Unit: 1773

pharmaecutical agents (lines 13-32, col. 1; columns 4-6). KOLLURI ET AL '138 discloses that it is well known in the art to use plasma polymerization to obtain acrylic acid-functionalized substrates in order to provide good bonding with chemical or pharmaecutical agents (lines 10-20, col 3; lines 37-45, col. 6; Table 1; lines 27-45, col. 10).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use known plasma polymerization methods to modify the surfaces of medical devices as disclosed in RUPP or KOLLURI ET AL '138 in order to provide a highly adherent functionalized substrate for SODm-based coatings as disclosed in UDIPI ET AL while also eliminating the need to incorporate such functional groups into the bulk substrate material with the resultant compromises in physical properties. One of ordinary skill in the art would have selected the type and portions of conventional medical devices (claims 25, 28-29) to be functionalized and treated in order to improve biocompatibility. It would have been obvious to adjust the thickness of the functional group layer (claim 27) depending on the functional group density required for a specific application.

Conclusion

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

KOLLURI ET AL (US 5,723,219) discloses the creation of a functionalized layer by means of plasma polymerization.

Art Unit: 1773

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Vivian Chen whose telephone number is (703) 305-3551. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday from 8:30 AM to 6 PM. The examiner can also be reached on alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paul Thibodeau, can be reached on (703) 308-2367. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0661.

October 19, 2003

Vivian Chen Primary Examiner Art Unit 1773 Page 5